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arc per hour along the ecliptic. As the maximum range of the moving-wire system in the Crossley guiding eye-piece is somewhat less than 100 seconds of arc, it was necessary to guide by means of the long finder, whose focal length is approximately that of the main instrument, with an attached micrometer; the bodies would move one second of arc in about twenty-four seconds of time. Two plates were taken on September 3d, with exposures of one hour each; the second check plate is necessary to be able to reject the small flaws, very faint and frequently startlingly like a stellar image, which are too often found on commercial plates. The region photographed was almost precisely at the Sun's antipodal point. The result was entirely negative; no certain trace of any such body was found. H. D. CURTIS.

## NOTE ON COMET *b* 1913 (METCALF).

The second comet of the year was discovered by METCALF, of Taunton, Massachusetts, the night of September 1st, in the constellation of the *Lynx*. Its motion is northward and westward. From observations by Dr. AITKEN of the Lick Observatory, taken on the 2d, 3d and 4th, the orbit was computed by Miss SOPHIA LEVY and myself.

The comet is moving in a plane inclined 143° to the plane of the ecliptic. Its nearest approach to the Sun was September 14th; at a distance of 126,000,000 miles. At the present time it is approaching the Earth and becoming brighter. The closest approach to the Earth will be about 50,000,000 miles, at the end of September. It will continue to increase in brightness until about that time, when it will diminish in brightness very rapidly. It will probably not become bright enough to be visible to the unaided eye.

The comet will continue its northward journey until it is within about 12 degrees of the pole, when it will start southward through *Cepheus*. It is at present in *Camelopardolus*.

The elements of the orbit and a short ephemeris have been published in *Lick Observatory Bulletin*, No. 235.

R. T. CRAWFORD.

**September 15, 1913.**